

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Weston F. Hardin Conf. No.: 5397
Serial No.: 10/828,964 Art Unit: 3763
Filing Date: April 21, 2004 Examiner: VU, QUYNH-NHU HOANG
For: Needleless Luer Access Connector

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

This response is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed October 9, 2007 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") relating to the above-referenced application. This response is being filed electronically with a five (5) month extension of time.

The Office Action issued a restriction requirement and subsequently grouped the claims as follows:

Species 1: Figures 1-8 (first embodiment of septum and first embodiment of housing)

Species 2: Figures 9-11 (second embodiment of septum and second embodiment of housing)

Species 3: Figures 12-13 (third embodiment of housing)

Species 4: Figures 14-16 (third embodiment of septum and fourth embodiment of housing)

Species 5: Figures 17-18 (fourth embodiment of septum and fifth embodiment of housing)

Species 6: Figures 19-22 (fifth embodiment of septum and sixth embodiment of housing)

Species 7: Figures 21-22 (sixth embodiment of septum and seventh embodiment of housing)

Species 8: Figures 23-24 (seventh embodiment of septum and eighth embodiment of housing)

Species 9: Figures 25-26 (eighth embodiment of septum and ninth embodiment of housing)

Species 10: Figures 27-28 (ninth embodiment of septum and tenth embodiment of housing)

Species 11: Figures 29-30 (eleventh embodiment of housing)

Species 12: Figures 31-32 (twelfth embodiment of housing); and

Species 13: Figures 33-36 (tenth embodiment of septum and thirteenth embodiment of housing)

The Office Action requires an election to species of the subject matter specified in the figures as identified above, and a listing of claims readable thereon.

Election without traversal

The Applicants hereby elect Species 13 for the tenth embodiment of septum and thirteenth embodiment of housing as embodied in claims 32-37. Applicants reserve the right to amend and resubmit claims readable on the unelected species for rejoinder under MPEP 821.04 should a generic claim become allowable. Applicants also reserve the right to further define the invention, or file divisional applications directed to the non-elected groups and/or species.

Conclusion

In view of the election and citations above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 32-37 are in a condition for allowance. Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to Deposit Account Number 02-1666.

Respectfully submitted,

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